

PRESS RELEASE

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MILWAUKEE LATIN KING SENTENCED TO 30 YEARS IN PRISON FOR ROLE IN LAC COURTE OREILLES DRUG CONSPIRACY

Madison, Wisconsin -- Stephen P. Sinnott, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Jorge Barragan, Jr., DOB 2-9-80, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, was sentenced today in U.S. District Court in Madison to thirty years in federal prison for his involvement with members of the Latin King Nation in a conspiracy to distribute cocaine and crack cocaine on the Lac Courte Oreilles Reservation (LCO) in Sawyer County, Wisconsin. In imposing the 360-month sentence, Chief Judge Barbara B. Crabb gave the defendant a 48-month credit against that sentence for the time he has already served on a 2001 gun violation that was part of this drug conspiracy. Barragan's sentence will be served without the possibility of parole.

On December 12, 2005, a jury found Barragan guilty of the drug conspiracy following a one-week trial. The proof at trial established that Barragan began dating a Latin Queen from LCO in the spring of 1997; in late 1998 and early 1999, Barragan, Florentino Castillo, and Ernesto Estrada started traveling to the LCO Reservation in Sawyer County to sell drugs. Estrada was sentenced on March 6 to twenty-four years and four months in federal prison for his role in this conspiracy. Castillo will be

sentenced on April 24. From early 2000 through the end of 2001, Barragan and his co-conspirators made countless trips from Milwaukee to LCO transporting cocaine and crack cocaine for resale on and around the Reservation. Chief Judge Crabb found that Barragan's conduct, conservatively, involved approximately three kilograms of crack cocaine. Barragan was arrested in December 2001 on the federal gun charge. While in custody, he provided a new drug source to his co-conspirators who then continued to bring cocaine and crack cocaine to the Reservation using the connection provided by Barragan to another Milwaukee drug source.

Barragan is the 39th defendant sentenced as a result of this long-term investigation conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Wisconsin Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigation-Narcotics Bureau, and the Sawyer County Sheriff's Department into drug dealing by the Latin Kings and others on the LCO reservation. Two defendants - Donald Fairbanks and John Radermacher - are pending sentencing following guilty pleas prior to trial. Two other defendants -Pedro Zamora and Florentino Castillo - are pending sentencing following their convictions after the jury trial in December 2005.

The prosecution of these cases has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorneys John W. Vaudreuil and Laura Przybylinski Finn.

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